

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): An information processing apparatus that communicates with a terminal connected to a network by using an HTTP protocol and performs processes requested by the terminal, the information processing apparatus comprising;

a cookie information setting part configured to set, before keeping a memory area for storing information on a session between the terminal and the information processing apparatus, for setting a predetermined string for checking a cookie status of the terminal, as cookie information, in an HTTP response corresponding to a first HTTP request sent from the terminal; and

a cookie information determining part configured to determine for determining whether a second HTTP request includes the predetermined string as cookie information, wherein the second HTTP request is sent from the terminal after the first HTTP request is sent and indicates a start of a session between the terminal and the information processing apparatus,

wherein, when the cookie information determining part determines that the second HTTP request does not include the predetermined string, the information processing apparatus sends an HTTP response for the second HTTP request without keeping a memory area for storing information on a session between the terminal and the information processing apparatus and without including session identification information identifying the session into the HTTP response, and

wherein, when the cookie information determining part determines that the second HTTP request includes the predetermined string, the information processing apparatus keeps the memory area for storing information on a session between the terminal and the

information processing apparatus, and sends to the terminal an HTTP response including the session identification information as a response to the second HTTP request.

Claim 2-3 (Canceled).

Claim 4 (Original): The information processing apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein, when the cookie information determining part determines that the second HTTP request does not include the predetermined string, the information processing apparatus sends, to the terminal, a Web page for requesting to enable a cookie function in the terminal as a response to the second HTTP request.

Claim 5 (Canceled).

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): The information processing apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the information processing apparatus is an image forming apparatus configured to perform at least one of a printing operation and a facsimile operation in response to a request from the terminal.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): An information processing apparatus comprising:  
a communication control part configured to control for controlling communications by using an HTTP protocol between the information processing apparatus and a terminal connected to a network;  
a process execution part configured to execute for executing a process corresponding to [[an]] a first HTTP request from the terminal received by the communication control part;

a cookie information setting part configured to set, before keeping a memory area for storing information on a session between the terminal and the information processing apparatus, a predetermined string for checking a cookie status of the terminal as cookie information in an HTTP response corresponding to the first HTTP request sent from the terminal; and

a cookie information determining part configured to determine for determining whether a second [[an]] HTTP request received from the terminal includes the [[a]] predetermined string as cookie information, wherein the second HTTP request indicates a start of a session between the information processing apparatus and the terminal[[;]],

wherein, when the cookie information determining part determines that the second HTTP request does not include the predetermined string, the information processing apparatus sends an HTTP response for the second HTTP request without keeping a memory area for storing information on a session between the terminal and the information processing apparatus and without including session identification information identifying the session into the HTTP response, and

wherein, when the cookie information determining part determines that the second HTTP request includes the predetermined string, the information processing apparatus keeps the memory area for storing information on a session between the terminal and the information processing apparatus, and sends to the terminal an HTTP response including the session identification information as a response to the second HTTP request.

wherein the process execution part sets a predetermined string in an HTTP response as cookie information, wherein the HTTP response is sent to the terminal in response to an HTTP request sent from the terminal before the HTTP request that indicates the start of the session.

Claim 8 (Canceled).

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): An information processing apparatus comprising:  
a communication control part configured to control for controlling communications  
by using an HTTP protocol between the information processing apparatus and a terminal  
connected to a network;  
a process execution part configured to execute for executing a process corresponding  
to an HTTP request from the terminal received by the communication control part; and  
a cookie information determining part configured to determine for determining  
whether an HTTP request includes a predetermined string as cookie information, wherein the  
HTTP request indicates a start of a session between the information processing apparatus and  
the terminal;  
wherein the communication control part sets a predetermined string in an HTTP  
response as cookie information, wherein the HTTP response is sent to the terminal in  
response to an HTTP request sent from the terminal before the HTTP request that indicates  
the start of the session, and  
wherein the information processing apparatus is an image forming apparatus  
configured to perform at least one of a printing operation and a facsimile operation in  
response to a request from the terminal.

Claim 10 (Original): The information processing apparatus as claimed in claim 9,  
wherein the information processing apparatus includes a plurality of process execution parts,  
and the communication control part sets the predetermined string in an HTTP response by  
any of the plurality of process execution parts as cookie information.

Claim 11 (Original): The information processing apparatus as claimed in claim 10, wherein, when the cookie information determining part determines that the HTTP request that indicates the start of the session does not include the predetermined string, the information processing apparatus does not keep a memory area for storing information on any session between the terminal and the information processing apparatus.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): A session management method used in an information processing apparatus that communicates with a terminal connected to a network by using an HTTP protocol and performs processes requested by the terminal, the session management method comprising:

a cookie information setting step of setting, before keeping a memory area for storing information on a session between the terminal and the information processing apparatus, a predetermined string for checking a cookie status of the terminal, as cookie information, in an HTTP response corresponding to a first HTTP request sent from the terminal; and

a cookie information determining step of determining whether a second HTTP request includes the predetermined string as cookie information, wherein the second HTTP request is sent from the terminal after the first HTTP request is sent and indicates a start of a session between the terminal and the information processing apparatus,

wherein, when the determining step determines that the second HTTP request does not include the predetermined string, the information processing apparatus sends an HTTP response for the second HTTP request without keeping a memory area for storing information on a session between the terminal and the information processing apparatus and without including session identification information identifying the session into the HTTP response, and

wherein, when the determining step determines that the second HTTP request includes the predetermined string, the information processing apparatus keeps the memory area for storing information on a session between the terminal and the information processing apparatus, and sends to the terminal an HTTP response including the session identification information as a response to the second HTTP request.

Claims 13-14 (Canceled).

Claim 15 (Original): The session management method as claimed in claim 12, wherein, when the information processing apparatus determines that the second HTTP request does not include the predetermined string in the cookie information determining step, the information processing apparatus sends, to the terminal, a Web page for requesting to enable a cookie function in the terminal as a response to the second HTTP request.

Claim 16 (Canceled).

Claim 17 (Currently Amended): The session management method as claimed in claim 12, wherein the information processing apparatus is an image forming apparatus configured to perform at least one of a printing operation and a facsimile operation in response to a request from the terminal.

Claim 18 (New): The information processing apparatus of Claim 7, wherein the information processing apparatus is an image forming apparatus configured to perform at least one of a printing operation and a facsimile operation in response to a request from the terminal.